



## Sudanese groups sign reconciliation

NAIROBI (AFP) — Two southern Sudanese rebel factions have concluded an agreement that would totally stop hostilities between them and appealed to other rebel groups in the war-torn south to join in the accord, it was announced Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference here, the rebel South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIMA) leader Rick Machar said its military delegation to political reconciliation and peace talks inside Sudan had agreed with John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) to a total cessation of hostilities and a permanent ceasefire between the factions.

The agreement at the talks, which opened in Eastern Equatoria last Sunday and ended with a signed accord on Wednesday afternoon, also catered for free movement of troops and civil population in the areas controlled by the two movements, Mr. Machar said.

He also said the agreement allowed unrestricted movement of humanitarian and relief agencies and personnel in the areas controlled by the liberation movements, and appealed to other southern Sudanese armed groups to join in the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities.

The SSIMA military delegation was led by Commander William Nyuon Bany, chief of staff and member of the faction's National Liberation Council, who rejoined the faction on March 31 after being expelled on Jan. 25 on allegations of collaborating with the government in Khartoum, while Colonel Garang and his deputy Silva Akir led the rival delegation.

The two delegations have yet to sit down and thrash out a final agreement on other

outstanding issues to enable the two rebel factions to reunite to their struggle to oust the "fundamentalist" regime in Khartoum, Mr. Machar said.

SSIMA declared its first ceasefire with the SPLA on March 10, but the ceasefire was never reciprocated by the Garang side.

The two movements also declared a ceasefire at the end of March in reciprocation of one declared by Sudanese head of state Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

But both rebel sides have accused Khartoum of violating its own ceasefire, while Khartoum also charged that the rebels had failed to respect the ceasefire, brokered by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to enable his Global 2000 foundation to eradicate guinea-worm and sleeping sickness diseases common in the southern region.

Meanwhile, the SSIMA leader on Wednesday sacked the organisation's secretary-general and secretary for political affairs, Richard Mulla, with effect from April 25, accusing him among others of collaborating with Khartoum.

Mr. Machar said Mr. Mulla had failed to perform his duties, indulged in activities against the SSIMA constitution, spread false and adverse propaganda against the faction and secretly collaborated with Khartoum and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels fighting against President Yoweri Museveni's regime in northern Uganda.

But an informed source in the movement told AFP on Wednesday that Mr. Mulla was sacked because he was trying to set up a new rebel faction in his home region of Eastern Equatoria.

## UAE cracks down on travel agencies cheating pilgrims

DUBAI (AFP) — Muslim pilgrims, who in centuries past feared being ambushed by bandits as their camel caravans trudged through the desert to Mecca, these days have to be wary of disreputable travel agencies.

In the past few years there have been reports of tour operators lodging pilgrims in crowded apartment rooms instead of the hotels advertised and of putting them in buses that break down in the intense desert heat.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has taken steps to protect those making this year's pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina which culminates on May 10.

The UAE's 60 muqawilunes, the agencies which organise pilgrimage or Hajj tours, have been ordered to set aside funds which could be used to settle any complaints filed by pilgrims.

The government has also launched a press campaign against dishonest tour operators.

Eleven agencies had their licences withdrawn after failing to "fulfill their contracts with the pilgrims" during the last Hajj, an official with the UAE's religious affairs ministry told AFP.

For 6,500 dirhams (nearly \$1,767), the travel agency promises to provide the pilgrim with the plane trip from the UAE to Saudi Arabia, food and board, as well as transportation between the holy sites in Mecca and Medina.

For those travelling by

road the trip costs 3,500 dirhams (\$950), an official said.

An expatriate in the Gulf Arab state of Bahrain who made the pilgrimage last year said that buses and their air conditioners often broke down and left passengers to endure the suffocating desert heat.

"The pilgrim is cheated as soon as he arrives in Saudi Arabia where he has to pay a tax of 440 riyals (more than \$110) that the muqawil is supposed to have taken care of," he added.

Then the hotel promised in the brochures turns out to be an apartment where four to six people are crowded into a room," he said.

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## U.N. fears deadly receptions for homeward-bound Rwanda refugees

BUTARE, Rwanda (AP) — Almost a year after they first fled their homes, about 200,000 refugees were on the march again in Rwanda. Many headed back to villages where U.N. officials fear they might be killed by survivors of one of the world's most brutal genocides.

The U.N.'s refugee agency said at least nine returnees already had been killed in their home villages and more than 1,000 imprisoned in a bank building in Ngenda, a town 25 miles south of the capital, Kigali.

In Nusuga, a quiet hillside farming community 10 miles from Butare, 10 returnees were promptly jailed on charges they bludgeoned their neighbours to death last year.

The refugees were Hutus, members of the ethnic majority blamed for last year's slaughter of a half-million men, women and children. Most of the victims were Tutsis shot, hacked and clubbed to death by Hutu militias and, in a frightening number of cases, former friends and neighbours.

In Butare, southwest of the capital, townspeople came out of their homes Tuesday

to slap, stone and spit at a column of hundreds of refugees beginning a journey on foot to their distant homes. U.N. officials fear their homecoming reception would be far more hostile.

"The government is conscious of the fact that there is going to be a huge problem in terms of food and water," U.N. special envoy Shaharyar Khan told reporters in Kigali. "There is also the question of hostility."

The refugees were moving throughout this central African nation on buses, trucks or foot after the Tutsi-led army closed with deadly force several camps in the country.

Most came from Kibeho camp, which housed 120,000 displaced people until Saturday, when at least 2,000 were shot to death by government troops or crushed in resulting stampedes.

At least 60,000 first fled in terror to Butare, 32 kilometers from the camp, where many were persuaded to move on to their homes by U.N. officials and government soldiers.

The new, Tutsi-dominated government in Kigali has been trying for months to get

more than 2 million refugees inside Rwanda and in neighbouring countries to return home.

It was continuing that effort in Butare and elsewhere Tuesday, sometimes harshly.

Aid workers and others said many refugees were being abused by civilians and soldiers alike.

Lt. Kent Page, the U.N. military spokesman in Kigali, said he had personally seen refugees whipped and stoned by civilians and soldiers.

"I saw it myself," he said. "They are more than just minor incidents."

A stand-off continued Tuesday between soldiers and about 600 men, women and children who were refusing to vacate a school building at the otherwise abandoned camp at Kibeho.

Some holdouts were said by U.N. officials to be Hutus armed with rifles and grenades who were using others as human shields.

By nightfall Tuesday, the army had set four deadlines for the holdouts to leave the building peacefully or be forced out, but let each pass without taking action.

The killings at the Kibeho

camp, and continuing difficulties settling the refugees, seemed sure to set back efforts to reconcile Hutus and Tutsis hardened by their years of enmity and threatened to sharply reduce international funding for Rwanda.

The international community expressed almost unanimous outrage at the latest massacre. The Netherlands said it was eliminating its aid and the European Union said it would review its policies toward Rwanda.

Aid workers and witnesses said the weekend slaughter was unprovoked. The government claims soldiers were protecting themselves against Hutu militiamen.

Some survivors said the United Nations should have done more to stop the violence, which occurred within sight of 200 U.N. peacekeepers.

A report Monday by Human Rights Watch-Africa backed up those accusations, saying that although the peacekeepers were outnumbered by Rwandan soldiers, they should have anticipated trouble and called for reinforcements.



A Rwandan soldier stands at the site of the where thousands of Hutus were killed by Kibeho refugee camps, southern Rwanda, Rwandan soldiers (AFP photo)

## Argentine army regrets its 'dirty war' in 1970s

BUENOS AIRES (R) — After two decades of depicting itself as Argentina's saviour, the army has formally admitted it was wrong in kidnapping and killing thousands of suspected guerrillas in the 1970s "dirty war."

"I have pondered these words at great length," army chief General Martin Balza told the nation in a televised speech late Tuesday. "I assume our part of responsibility in the mistakes."

"We must no longer deny the horror we lived through," he said, reading from a prepared text. "I can only

offer... the firm commitment that we shall not repeat the mistakes of the past."

His admission, the army's first such open acceptance of responsibility, was the result of grisly reminders by two former military men of the way in which thousands of missing people met their deaths: Dumped from aircraft into the sea, drugged and dazed but often still alive.

Faced with plain evidence of torture and murder, the armed forces had long admitted to "excesses" in their fight against suspected re-

bels. But until now they had never described their entire campaign as unlawful and wrong in such frank language.

Gen. Balza's statements are bound to cause tension within the army itself and with other services, clashing as they do with two decades of military insistence that bold, brave action was needed to stamp out an insurgency that threatened to take over Argentina in the 1970s.

Only last month the navy haughtily shrugged off the disclosures of a commander

who confirmed the existence of the "death flights" denounced by survivors of military concentration camps. It counter-attacked by cashiering him on charges of car theft and forgery.

Gen. Balza, however, faced with identical testimony this week from a former army sergeant, repeatedly used the words "error" and "mistake" to describe the military's 1976 decision to shun the law in its fight against opponents and suspected guerrillas.

"The end never justifies the means," said Gen. Balza.

With the firm commitment that we shall not repeat the mistakes of the past," he said, reading from a prepared text. "I can only

offer... the firm commitment that we shall not repeat the mistakes of the past."

Another of her contemporaries, actor Mickey Rooney, said: "I am certain that somewhere in heaven Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers are doing 'just the way you look tonight,'" one of their famous dance numbers.

Rogers broke into show business after winning a Charleston dance contest. She went on to shine equally in comedies and dramas and in 1945 became Hollywood's highest-paid performer.

She and Astaire, who had a brief off-screen romance, kicked boredom from the silver screen with graceful and fluid dance numbers in such dance classics as Flying Down To Rio, The Gay Divorcee, Roberta and Top Hat.

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File picture dated Aug. 10, 1938 of U.S. actress Ginger Rogers. The actress died Tuesday. She was 83 (AFP photo)

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applause or members to himself protesting the good old ways to change overnight, and equally crucially, the problem is not the past. The model is given out of the way to find out in person — such as Omar Bin Al-Farid and others — who go out at night or night to listen at people's windowsides for their needs, complaints etc. And fighting, and fulfilling aspirations, how many people in our part of the world expect from rulers and representatives the system that we expect from the rest of the time? And to knock at the doors to people? And now, this is not the best approach. It takes the opportunity available to seek the realization of it. You have to knock at your door, and twice and three times, and open. The citizen is a participant, a part of the everlasting task of educating the government, which has contributed largely to the many false expectations people have. It is time for us to give up and see that the experts of the various ministries and higher committees are capable of this effect and executing them to the best

need to have a serious debate — through various intellectual forums, our higher institutions, our youth establishments and people about the basic, fundamental meaning of democracy. There is a great deal of ignorance about the world around democracy and a great deal of confusion. We need to understand it better. Then we can expect to see an efficient, democratic, democratic and more transparent system.

**iles fight Saudi gime with fax and religious fervor**

same Socolovsky  
Associated Press

When Muslim clerics inspired by a Rambam overthrew the last of their traditional religious leaders in 1979, they recorded their deaths, according to historian Michael Socolovsky. King Fahd's

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## SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

# When silence is not golden, and the truth hits home

**Hamadeh Fara'anah**, a political columnist of electric history, has a bone to pick with the administrative committee of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA). Criticised heavily for granting an interview to Israeli Television via telephone from Amman on April 6, Fara'anah said he has been summoned by the JWA committee for a meeting on Monday to discuss the issue of his continued membership. Fara'anah is certain that the decision (to revoke his JWA membership) has already been taken. The interview was made and broadcast the same day as the JWA elections for the administrative committee and president, and the interview, according to Fara'anah, centred on the outcome of those elections. Fara'anah said he told Israeli TV that the results of the election represented a victory for the faction that is "democratic, pluralistic and realistic." He added that it was also a defeat of the leftist fundamentalist faction that calls for extremism. He told Israeli TV, he said, that the new administrative committee now represented all shades of the political spectrum.

What angered the JWA, said Fara'anah, was not what he said to Israeli TV but rather that he said anything at all. According to an internal JWA regulation passed last August in advance of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in October, JWA members are forbidden from dealing with Israeli media, politicians or intellectuals. Fara'anah, who has been a JWA member since 1974, said Israeli TV contacted him because he is a daily columnist, his writings are "realistic and reasonable," and because he had met Israeli TV producer Yousef Ismail at the October 1991 Madrid Middle East peace conference, though at the time he refused to give an interview. The Al Dustour columnist's life has not been without earlier controversies. He has been jailed in Jordan, Syria and Egypt, he said, for his political activities — jail terms, he said, add up to a cumulative 10 years. But Fara'anah, who is a member of the Palestine National Council and then served on the Royal Commission charged with writing the Jordanian National Charter, feels it is his right to express his opinions at any forum. He said that following the Oslo and Wadi Araba peace accords, new political realities arose. "I deal with those new realities," Fara'anah said.

According to Fara'anah, who said he and his family have received threats since his interview with Israeli TV, the JWA administrative committee approached him through intermediaries asking him to either apologise or resign. He refused, he said. Taking the threats seriously, Fara'anah, 45, cited a report in a local tabloid wherein he said JWA President Ibrahim Abi told the paper that he would silence Fara'anah, if not through expulsion from the JWA, then by "other means."

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**Waiting for Toujan:** Silencing is how House Deputy Toujan Faisal interpreted a Mafraq governorate decision to refuse to allow the convening of a seminar in which she and her colleague Deputy Bassam Haddadin were to be the guest speakers. The seminar was to be held at the Professional Association Complex in Mafraq. Ms. Faisal penned off her anger at the decision in article in the local press headlined "Toujan opens fire on governors and administrative governors."

Replying to that article in a tabloid, attorney for the Professional Association Complex in Mafraq Mahmoud Hawandeh defends the decision, although it was his association that invited the two deputies to speak. He admits that when the association members first heard of the official refusal to allow the seminar they were taken by surprise. But, he added, that after meeting with the officials, the association understood that the objection was not to the seminar per se, but to the holding of a political event in a non-political forum, i.e. the Professional Association Complex. It remains to be seen if Deputy Faisal will send a stinging volley back in reply this week or whether she will wait to see the outcome of a government plan to issue new regulations regarding public assembly.



Hamadeh Fara'anah

**All the colours that offend:** If the name Toujan Faisal is synonymous with controversy, Benetton, according to one Israeli marketing professional, is synonymous with shock treatment. Miriam Kreinin, writing in the Jerusalem Post, accuses the Italian clothing empire with coming up with innovative advertising campaigns "which have no other point other than shocking the viewer into brand recognition." But while she said that Benetton's advertising style was "a daring and positive move" in the early 1980s and that later ads "caused a great deal of controversy," Kreinin takes offence at Benetton's spring catalogue, saying it "doubles as a piece of Palestinian propaganda." "It (Benetton) obviously chose the Palestinian cause as the subject because the media has portrayed it as a 'sexy' contemporary issue," snipes Kreinin. She presumes that Benetton "knows nothing about the history, depth or sides to the Arab-Israeli conflict" and thus "demonstrates this amply by its incomplete documentation of the history of the Palestinians and their conflict with Israel, and by a map -- not drawn to size -- that misconstrues the geography of the Middle East." She suggests that if Benetton were truly interested in showing the reality of the conflict it might insert "a page or two picturing the bombings by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip," or a "picture of the bus bombing in downtown Tel Aviv," or "the double bomb set at Beit Lid." She ends her commentary, entitled "Hard sell," saying, "But I guess those people can't model clothes anymore." If the writer has found Benetton's advertising so objectionable in the past, one wonders why she waited until the company featured people under Israeli occupation to air her "professional" irritation.

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**A meat by any other name:** The dream of any advertiser would be to come up with an idea that would make a brand name synonymous with the product. But in the case of Sinyora, a brand name of what is locally referred to as mortadella but is really processed luncheon meat, that established synonymy recently backfired. A local tabloid published an article warning its readers that violations were discovered in the processing of some materials used in producing "mortadella, luncheon meat and" — you guessed it — "Sinyora." Sinyora company attorney Kamal Saba sent an ever-so polite letter to the editor of the tabloid which was published in full. In his letter Saba said that the use of the brand name Sinyora in the article has caused damage to the company's more than 30-year reputation of

being "the best mortadella manufacturer." Demanding that a correction be published, as he said was promised him by the tabloid's editors, Saba said he would seek legal recourse if the Sinyora company was not accorded satisfaction. An editor's note following Saba's letter put the blame for not printing a correction earlier on technical reasons. And, then it faulted Amman Mayor Mamduh Al Abbadi for the use of the word Sinyora in a memorandum regarding violations in luncheon meat processing. But where was the editorial responsibility?

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**A Nordic breadth of fresh air:** Not even here a year yet, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and its Ambassador Tove S. Kjewski, are hard at work to bring "the first broad manifestation of Norwegian culture to Jordan." Wedged into a week of Jordanian handicraft and art exhibitions for spring, "Encounters," a cultural exchange between artists in Jordan and Norway starts off May 2 with a recital at Darat Al Funun by Norwegian folk musicians Reidun Horvei and Einar Mjolsnes and Jordanian oud-player Saker Hattar. On May 3, an exhibition of Norwegian contemporary art goes on display at the National Gallery of Fine Arts featuring the works of Goran Ohldieck (graphics), Jan Erik Willgoes (paintings), Kjetil I. Berge (graphic/plaster prints), Marit Benthe Nordheim (sculptures), Sigrid Szeto (dry pastel drawing), Tove Pedersen (textiles), and Inger Johanne Brautaset (textiles and paper work). A hands-on encounter will take shape in the form of an exhibition of embroideries on national costumes of Norway and Jordan, and of jewellery. Rugs designed by Szeto, Pederson and Brautaset and woven by the women of the Bani Hamida tribe will draw the backdrop to this blending of traditional talents. On the entertainment end Kjewski has teamed up with restaurateur Zeid Ksous for a palate-tempting evening of seafood delights featuring Norwegian smoked salmon, and a special musical treat on the evening of May 4 at Restaurant Romero in Amman. On Friday, May 5, an encounter with history will take place at Umm Qais where the Norwegian culture week will organise an excursion to visit the Greek, Roman and Byzantine excavations and the museum. Later the Roman theatre will come alive for the first time in ages with an open air opera recital by Norwegian singer Carl Robert Henie and pianist Peter Anthun Ness. A buffet dinner of a complementary selection of Norwegian and Arabic dishes will cap the evening at the Umm Qais Restaurant. The finale of this cultural exchange will be a Norwegian gourmet dinner-dance at Kan Zamman at which chefs from the Royal Norwegian Navy will prepare their country's specialties, and Mr. Henie will have torn himself away from the wonder of Umm Qais to return to Amman to play at the famous Abu Jaber castle. The Norwegian cultural week is being held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

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**French networking:** Another form of cultural exchange takes place daily via satellite from France. But perhaps what few people may be aware of is that Jordan Television's (JTV) foreign channel brings its viewers 17 hours of French programming every week, and all that courtesy of Canal France International (CFI). CFI was established in 1989 on the initiative of the French Ministry of Overseas Cooperation and Development to foster exchange with television networks in Africa. It has since become a showcase for French television and cinema production throughout the world. Here for a brief two-day visit to check in on how things were progressing and how they could be improved was CFI President Director General Philippe Baudillon. Having met with Jordan Television and Radio Corporation Director General Ihsan Ramzi, Jordan Television Director Nasser Judeh and JTV's French programming team, Baudillon, a former Middle East and Africa expert for the cabinet of French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, reviewed channels for further

cooperation and ideas for future plans. Baudillon found JTV to have "excellent technical management," and said its capabilities will enable CFI to introduce improvements including more on-line information on CFI programmes. He added that CFI recognised that cultural preferences vary and therefore starting mid-September special airings for Africa and Eastern Europe will be introduced. He said the Arab region will be next. This was Baudillon's first visit to Jordan, and it was described as fruitful and promising.



Philippe Baudillon

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**Keeping them on their toes:** Promising is how Royal Jordanian's Executive Assistant of Public Relations Munib Toukan would describe the airline's newly assembled folklore troupe. Seeing a need to inject "new blood" into the entertainment end, Toukan replaced nine of the original 26 dancers mostly gleaned from the RJ staff and from students from the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University. Toukan had suspended performances by the group three months ago when he noted indications of a slack in standards. He said he postponed the start up of the group until he could find "talented, energetic and dedicated youth" to represent the airline and country at national and international festivals. The revamped troupe will stage a short sampling of their folklore footwork for a select audience, said Toukan, before getting the final seal of approval.

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**Farewell from the faithful:** It was wheels up Wednesday evening for Stephen Griffith, English chaplain of the Anglican English-speaking Church near First Circle as a crowd of his devoted congregation bid him adieu. Departing on British Airways to London, Stephen, as he is best known to all who know him, is not certain where his next post will be, after his three-year mission here in Jordan. The 45 year-old clergyman was regaled with several farewell parties, most notably that hosted by British envoy James Watt and his wife Ghislaine at the home of British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe who was in England for the wedding of his daughter. Well-wishers from the British embassy staff, the International Community School, the Amman Baccalaureate School and the church congregation ate, drank and were merry, except perhaps for one Franciscan monk from Massachusetts whose brown hooded robe, typical of his order, seemed to command a little more than reverence from the waiters who avoided even eye contact with him, let alone offer him a beverage.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Beware of Jordanians with radios

**JORDANIANS SHOULD** exercise great care while packing their luggage. Other than the usual inconvenience of forgetting a shirt or a pair of socks, electronics can leave you stranded between international airports, and possibly in the midst of an international incident.

A radio, which in international news terminology is called bomb making equipment, is the evil of all evils, whether FM or AM, single or double deck, Japanese made or other. It can prove hazardous to your health as well as to your travel plans. A Jordanian carrying a battery loaded radio could face severe penalty in many countries.

If you happen to be a Jordanian travelling abroad, for whatever sinister reason you may have, such as vacation, study or business, keep a sharp eye on the news in the country you are visiting as well as all neighbouring countries within 16,000 KM radius. Be prepared to be pulled in for questioning for any criminal acts, industrial accidents, natural disasters,

political or social upheavals. Any radio found on your person exponentially increases the chances of your conviction.

For those of us who cannot travel without a radio, here are some handy tips:

— Choose a radio that has soothing colours and does not make any sudden noises.

— Do not choose a complex radio as that could be evidence implicating you in a complex plot.

Even while following the above hints, travel with great care. If you happen to get caught with a battery loaded radio then act calm. Proper procedure and etiquette require that you cooperate fully with those individuals whose responsibility it is to seek out and punish Jordanians with radios. Cooperate as patiently as you can till your guilt is proven or at least your travel plans ruined. Anything less than destroying your travel plans won't satisfy the media.

While being questioned, avoid menacing looks that we Jordanians have perfected into an art, they seldom

work. Avoid smiles, they can be interpreted as cover of your nervousness and therefore proof of your guilt. When confronted with the question: Is this your radio? Answer yes. Do not try any of the lame excuses that it is a gift for your brother, sister, son, daughter or any other family member. You will only drag them into the conspiracy of whatever you are charged with and possibly diminish your chances of being given only one life sentence. Avoid pressing the "On" switch on the radio at all costs.

As a general rule Jordanians should not travel within 48 hours of any event appearing on CNN that could somehow be linked to you through a radio set.

Final words for Jordanian travellers: Always keep a lookout and travel light, lynching mobs have statistically been proven to form within two minutes. A foreign passport does not guarantee a fair trial if you are of Middle Eastern origin.

Ahmad Tabbaa

## Thoughts for this week

Self is the only prison that can ever bind the soul — Henry van Dyke, American clergyman, (1852-1933).

In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations, and epochs, it is the rule — Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher, (1844-1900).

When we cannot find contentment in ourselves it is useless to seek it elsewhere — Francois, Due de la Rochefoucauld, French author (1613-1680).

Superstition is the religion of feeble minds — Edmund Burke, British statesman (1729-1797).

Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently — attributed to Rosa Luxemburg, German Socialist leader (1870-1919).

Make haste slowly — Caesar Augustus, Roman emperor (63 B.C.-A.D. 14).

## Vox populi

By Jean-Claude Elias

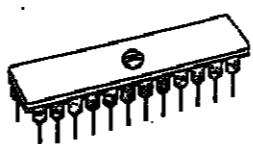
The computer industry is still in a revolutionary phase. Which is to say that it is continuously undergoing radical transformations, at a fast rate and in several directions. Some of these transformations succeed while others fail. It takes considerable effort, time and money from PC (personal computer) users to follow up the trend.

Wouldn't it be possible for the software and hardware designers to listen to what users want in the first place? After all this is how marketing is supposed to work. The current mode is towards heavier, more complicated systems that are becoming less and less reliable. True, they offer millions of features and boast impressive technical characteristics.

Computer operators however do not care for characteristics. They want a certain job done. They want it done right and on time. They also want to know they can trust the system. A few reliable functions are better than hundreds that do not always work.

Recently, the much publicised flaw in Intel's Pentium microprocessor has drawn people's attention to a fundamental problem — machines reliability. Microsoft is preparing to launch a new version of the Windows operating system. The new release, so far coded Windows 95, will have three times more code (programming) lines than the current 3.1 version. In other words it will be three times more complex and prone to problems. When you think that even the "3.1" was not perfect, you just cross your fingers and hope for the best.

## chip talk



A few weeks ago I had the privilege to interview the celebrated Italian Professor Roberto Busa who was visiting Amman for a series of lectures on the use of computers in linguistics. Prof. Busa, now 82, started exploiting computer technology in the late forties. He never cared for specific features, hardware or software details, as long as the system could process the information he needed. He never wasted time on gadgets but spent it on real action. He has input the equivalent of 500 million database records so far. A lesson for us all and a remarkable example of goal-oriented thinking.

I have watched young people use PCs. They are the hungriest for new programmes. New features and science fiction characteristics. They also spend much more time testing software than actually using it. In the end it is probably a matter of knowing what we want.

It is no surprise that the world's most trusted car (you know, the German machine with a star on the hood...) has no useless gadgets nor frills. It isn't even the fastest on the road. Would it be too much to ask the computer industry to take example?

## INCREDIBLE FACTS

- \* Every spring a ceremony for humpbacked whales at the Coasts Research Centre in Province town, in Massachusetts, is held so as sea experts could identify their sailing speed.
- \* The domesticated silkworm butterfly cannot live isolated from human-beings. If it happened, it could never fly.
- \* Scientists in Chile have installed a gigantic network that occupies an area of 12,000 square feet. A very high mountainous ridge was selected where thick fog existing there could have been collected. What was the outcome? Nearly 1,440 litres of pure water had been collected and stored in each day!!
- \* In a competition organised for the longest kiss at one of the American cities, a couple managed to exchange a hot kiss for more than 130 hours and 137 seconds.

## LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Where are you going? *Ela ayna anta thahib?*  
— First to the post office, then to the market.
- *Awwalan eli maktab el-bareed wab'a'da thalik el-souk.*

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaqir

## TIME FOR FUN

★ As the little boy was talking to his father, a donkey went past them.  
SON: Do donkeys ever marry, dad?  
FATHER: Who do you think would marry but donkeys, my son?

★ BRIDEGROOM: How many persons did you know before me?  
The young bride didn't give a comforting answer. The man was afraid she had got angry with him. So he apologised. Yet she still determined not to say a word. After about half an hour silence, he returned to ask her:  
"Are you really angry with me, darling?"  
"No, but I'm just counting them," came the astounding reply.

## BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The Amazon River flows mainly through Brazil. In what country does it begin?

sent their contribution to the papers are the only serious and responsible citizens who care for their lives and the lives of other drivers while all other drivers are in fact not aliens, but are sad, sick and stupid, and so seem irresponsible."

"Ab..." came a voice from behind me to say, "... you believe them to be sick and stupid because you judge them by your standards, but if you stoop down to their level, you will discover an innate desire in them to break the law simply because it makes them feel good. Their motives are not inherently evil, but if you take a closer look, you will find a mixture of selfishness, indifference and carelessness underneath what you have labelled stupidity. To show you what I mean, take the everyday situation of the car driving the wrong way in a one way street. Everybody does it, but for different reasons. Some do it because they are clumsy, others do it out of need while others do it because they believe it to be a God-given right. Even police vehicles do it. But there also is the other side of the coin. This is the department who had decided in the first place to make street a one way street based on certain criteria."

But, as does everything else, these criteria change. And when they do, the position of our imaginary street should also change. But sadly, it never does because somebody, somewhere is not doing their job properly.

"Right..." I said. "...Then what all this boils down to is that our society is a mixture of the clumsy, the needy, the indifferent and the selfish."

"That is very true..." came the voice from across the room, "...We talk a lot so we think that we do a lot when in fact we do nothing and so we have nothing."

2. The simplest atom is the hydrogen atom. Why is it the simplest?

3. What letter of the alphabet represents "Planck's Constant?"

4. Einstein is associated with the theory of relativity, what is the concept that Darwin is associated with?

5. How would you treat someone suffering from a severe electric shock?

## PUZZLES

THREE + THREE MAKE TWENTY  
In these 40 three-letter words there are 20 six-letter words. Using each word below only once, form the new words.

can	act	for	row
end	law	pit	sad
ear	red	fat	get
arm	fly	out	bat
fur	ape	ear	any
era	rot	ore	her
ten	cat	beg	tic
bet	ash	gad	nab
cam	ray	one	age
arc	way	dam	den

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

## Thursday, April 27

1:00 Dennis The Menace

1:30 My Secret Identity

2:00 NBA

3:00 Survival

3:50 Blue Heelers

4:30 French Programme

7:30 The Album Show

8:00 The Blue Revolution

9:15 E.N.G

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Shocked

Starring: Jodie Foster &amp; John Lithgow

The marriage of a young orphan to an older man proves stifling. Her imagination turns to murder, with the lovely New Zealand landscape in perfect contrast to her dreary thoughts.

12:00 Burning Shores

Friday, April 28

1:00 Lift Off

1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That?

2:00 A Year In The Life

2:45 Feature Film — Charlie And The Angel

Starring: Fred MacMurray &amp; Cloris Leachman

The movie is about a guardian angel who teaches an exciting man a few lessons in kindness and humility before his time on Earth is up.

4:15 White Fang

4:45 French Programme

7:30 African Skies

8:00 Movie Magic

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 The Law And Harry McGraw

10:00 News In English

11:30 Feature Film — A Star Is Born

Starring: Janet Gaynor &amp; Fredric March

The story of an aging actor whose career is beginning to go on the skids while his youthful bride's career is starting to blossom.

## Saturday, April 29

2:00 Dog City

2:30 Harry And The Hendersons

3:00 Witness To Survival

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:00 Gillette World Sport

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — Life In The Freezer

Footsteps In The Snow

The programme traces the early exploration and exploitation of the continent and its surrounding islands.

8:30 The Nanny

9:00 Documentary — Dive The World

9:15 Cape Rebel

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Law And Jake Wade

Starring: Robert Taylor &amp; Richard Widmark

A robust Western in which a bad guy, while looking for buried treasure, starts coming a good guy into helping him.

12:00 Tanamera

## Sunday, April 30

2:00 Animated Classics — Aladdin

3:00 Feature Film — Hockey Challenge

Starring: Megan Fellows &amp; Herby Ramer

A young talented hockey player loses her only

chance of getting into the final contest.

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Masterpieces Of Literature

8:30 Almost Home

9:10 The Other Side Of Paradise

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Attack Force (Z)

Starring: John Phillip Law &amp; Mel Gibson

A group of commandos are on a secret mission against the Japanese in World War II.

12:00 The Hidden Room

Hungry Girls

12:30 Grace And Favour

## Monday, May 1

2:00 Madeline

2:30 Munster's Today

3:00 Hard Time On Planet Earth

3:50 Pals

4:15 Documentary — The Language Of Animals

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Q.E.D.

8:30 Laurie Hill

9:10 The Contender

10:00 News In English

10:20 Strauss Dynasty

11:20 Feature Film — Convicted: A Mother's Story

Starring: Ann Jillian &amp; Gloria Loring

The story of a convicted woman and a mother of two

children who is sentenced to three-year imprisonment.

## Tuesday, May 2

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 I Witness Video

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — The Nature Of Things

8:30 Boogies Diner

9:10 Jack The Ripper

10:00 News In English

10:20 Seaforth

12:00 Lonesome Dove

Starring: Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones

## Wednesday, May 3

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 Hot Shots

3:00 Beakman's World

3:30 Movies, Games And Videos

4:00 Amazing Stories

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Marvellous Machine — The Liver

8:30 GP

9:15 Berlin Break

10:00 News In English



## First 'television war' a very different story for Vietnamese film-makers

By Robert Templer  
Agence France Presse

**HO CHI MINH CITY** — Vietnam's conflict was the first television war, brought into the homes of millions of Americans by reporters who created a heroic images both of themselves and "the story of the decade."

But it was a very diffe-

rent story for the Vietnamese who reported on the war for the Northern side from the early 1960s until the fall of Saigon 20 years ago on April 30, 1975.

"You were there as a soldier first, then as a journalist," said Pham Khac, a cameraman who filmed most of the major events of modern Viet-

namese history. "You always carried a gun as well as a camera."

Khac's numerous close shaves earned him the nickname "the survivor" as well as many scars from bullets and shrapnel injuries, sustained as he filmed the war for 15 years from 1960 up to the fall of Saigon.

No records have been kept of how many Vietnamese journalists and film-makers died in the conflict but Khac and Nguyen Thun, a movie director who headed a documentary unit during the war, both said numerous colleagues were killed.

Film-makers often worked in appalling conditions. While western reporters remained in Saigon or helicoptered back at night to send their stories, Khac often had to walk for two and half months along the heavily bombed Ho Chi Minh Trail, carrying his camera and equipment.

Footage was often processed with the most primitive techniques but despite the poor quality, the films are a dramatic record of the war that provided rousing propaganda for open-air village cinemas across the country.

Vietnamese journalists

make no excuses for the heroic tone of the reporting. "The journalist's job was to encourage soldiers and praise their successes, to reflect their lives and their fighting," said Dang Van Nhung, deputy editor of the army newspaper Quan Doi Nhan Dan.

"The media was aimed at helping win the war, everything then was aimed at making people fight," said Nhung, who wrote for a small Viet Cong newspaper in the south.

That attitude still lives on in Vietnamese journalism, which — even as it becomes more critical and controversial — is still aimed mostly at motivation.

Most Vietnamese film-makers and journalists recognise that times have changed and now look back a bit sheepishly at the heavy Soviet style of some of their works.

"I'd make it a little differently now," said Pham Ngoc Quynh after watching his film of U.S. prisoners of war marching out of the "Hanoi Hilton" jail while a crowd chanted slogans against "Yankee dogs."

Filmed just before the release of POWs, in 1973, Quynh's documentary shows prisoners tucking in to food from a heavily laden buffet and relaxing

in courtyards, hardly the way former inmates of the notoriously brutal jail remember their incarceration.

Quynh expresses considerable pride in his works but little desire to watch them now. "As a director I treasure the films but most of the time

I just want to forget about the past."

Anguish from the horrors of the war still haunts film-makers, many of whom now occupy top posts in Vietnam's state media. "It overwhelms me with sadness to think of those days," said Thu, head of a film company

while covering the war on the Northern side from the early 1960s until the end of the war (AFP photo)

and a member of parliament.

"I lost too many friends in the war," he said, recalling his sadness at sending crew off to Cu Chi, an area of intense battles outside Saigon where guerrillas lived in a warren of tunnels.

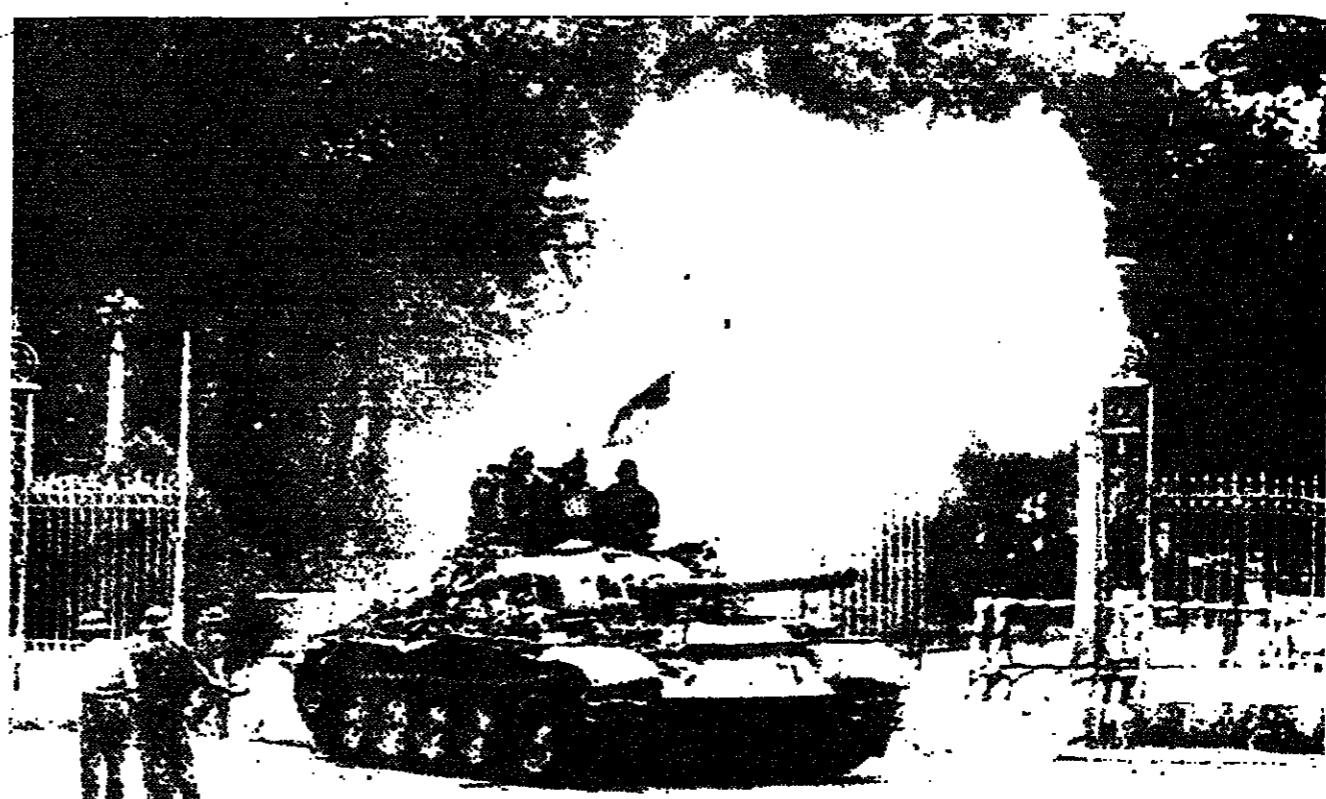
"When they started

fighting in the Cu Chi tunnels, we sent a crew of seven down their to film. They were all killed so we sent seven more and then more after that.

"After 1975 when the northern troops took control of Cu Chi, we found out that not one of them had survived."



North Vietnamese photographers had to be soldiers first, and then journalists (AFP photo)



Students sta

delegation

## Women's international circus in the spotlight

By Pia Ohlin  
Agence France Presse  
**STOCKHOLM** — The first all-female circus featuring the world's top artists is pulling in the crowds with spectacular acts in Stockholm.

The Cirkus Prinsessan (Princess Circus) is making Swedish headlines with sellout performances. The event has drawn a stunned adult crowd, dominated by women, students and couples without children.

Glowing reviews hail the show as magical, poetic, energetic and artistic. "A breath of fresh air," raved one daily.

The stellar cast boasts

artists, Chinese acrobats, a Hungarian contortionist, Argentine gauchos, and American Diane Tell, who shoots an apple off her own head with precision archery.

French dove trainer Regine Bouglione, a Russian highwire baller dancer and an unconventional hula hoop artist from Spain are just a few of the acts.

At the final performance, a jury including Sweden's Princess Christina will crown the 1995 World Circus Princess.

Brothers Henry and Robert Bronett, who took over Sweden's Circus Scott when their father died last year, decided to

organise the event as a tribute to him. He had been toying with the idea of a female circus for 20 years.

"We had often talked about how to rejuvenate the circus. Our grandmother headed Circus Scott for 25 years, so it was only natural to have an all-female circus," Henry Bronett told AFP.

"Men can do incredible

feats at the circus, but the women, they do the same acts with grace and style," he explained. In the Princess Circus, which runs here for a week only and will not tour, the only men are assistants.

There are no huffing, muscle-

flexing beefcakes in this ring. Instead, physical endurance and strength is highlighted with elegance and beauty.

One such act is the Steben Sisters, 20-year olds Karyne and Sarah from Montreal who shine on one trapeze. With delicate arabesques and intricate strength moves, the audience gasps as they catch each other with bare feet.

For the Stebens, the thought of working in an all-female circus was "exhilarating."

"We've always dreamt of it. We want to show other women that they can achieve their dreams too," Sarah said.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ALIMENTARY

By Joan D. Berbick

**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- Garfield's word? 44 Plunged
- in water 45 — in water
- 10 Foundation 46 Razzmatazz prize
- 13 Decoder 47 Lightning or
- 18 Teapot 48 —
- 20 Dachshund 49 Screen
- 21 Mana 50 —
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- 32 Buckets or bowls 57 —
- 33 — in the middle 58 —
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# News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 27-28, 1995 7

## Jordan, PNA sign accord

(Continued from page 1)

in an Arab book exhibition which will be held in Palestine.

It will also host a 12-member Palestinian theatre group which will participate in the youth theatre festival which will be held in June.

The Palestinian Ministry of Culture will also host for one week a Jordanian theatres group which will tour several Palestinian cities in October.

The two sides will meet in the second week of December to prepare the executive programme for the year 1996.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, who arrived in Amman earlier on the day via the King Hussein Bridge, said he was confident the coming stage would witness a vast range of cultural and information activities carried out jointly by the two sides.

They also agreed to adopt Jordanian standards on the weight of vehicles moving between the two sides.

## Students stage rally

(Continued from page 1)

mad Mansar of the physical education faculty. He called for ending disputes between students and said they should not allow anyone to undermine national unity.

Mohammad Wishal, representative of students from Salt, and Amjad Qourish, a representative of Circassian students, called on students to avoid disputes and resolve them through dialogue in order to preserve the Kingdom's stability and security.

University officials on

## EU delegation leaves

(Continued from page 1)

that a minimum amount equal to the most recent trade protocol between the EU and the given countries should be allocated to each country with the rest open to competition on the basis of the submission of projects that qualify to be financed by the package, European sources said.

The first-come-first-serve basis is applied in the financial aid package to Eastern Europe with the EU financing feasible projects in the qualifying countries with no ceilings imposed on how much funds each country can draw and no minimum amount reserved for any of the country.

The EU hopes that 12 Mediterranean countries in addition to the 15 EU members will participate in the Barcelona conference but it is not certain yet that all countries involved will be attending.

A European source said that it is not still certain that Syria and Lebanon will attend the conference, with Syria conditioning its attendance on progress in its bilateral peace talks with Israel, which will be attending the conference.

With Libya excluded from the conference due to the political tension between it and Europe, the absence of Syria and Lebanon from Barcelona could be a setback to the conference, said a European official, but added that their absence will not result in altering plans for the Barcelona meeting.

Syria and Lebanon are boycotting the multilateral talks of the Arab-Israeli peace talks because of the failure of the bilateral talks to achieve tangible progress. Europe plays a major role in the multilateral talks.

Even though Israel will be attending the Barcelona conference, it will not qualify to receive funds from the EU under the financial aid package because the EU does not consider it among the developing nations that are eligible for this kind of EU funding.

## Second suspect may be dead

(Continued from page 1)

the kind used at the federal building. It also said materials that could be used in an "improvised bomb," including 22.7-kilogramme bags of fertiliser containing ammonium nitrate, were at this bomb.

An early version of the affidavit said neighbour Daniel Stomber heard James Nichols "stating that judges and President Clinton should be killed, and that he blamed the FBI and the ATF (Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) for the killing of the Branch Davidians" in an assault on the sect's compound in Waco, Texas, exactly two years before the Oklahoma City blast.

The information about Mr. Clinton and the judges was missing from a revised version of the document filed with the charges. The FBI did not explain why the material was removed.

## Symposium advances efforts

(Continued from page 1)

have something to contribute affirmatively to the process," he said. "What they have are three governments (the U.S., Jordan and Israel) which are doing everything they can do practically in a timely fashion to make sure that the goals of the peace agreement are actually fulfilled."

"Nobody suggested that there would be a tender offer at this conference," he said. "Dozens of people... felt that they are returning home to the U.S. with a much clearer understanding of the political commitment, the will, the determination to develop the Jordan Rift Valley."

Mr. Grandmaison said he was "of the belief that the companies here, the vast majority of them, will decide that it is in their individual interests to try to participate in this development."

Dr. Ammari and Michael Arbel, head of the research and development cooperation division of the Israeli foreign ministry, said Jordan and Israel were in full agreement on the necessity to establish a joint authority to supervise Jordan Rift Valley development in all its aspects.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Dr. Arbel said Jordan and Israel were fully confident that the European Union (EU) would play a key role in the success of the summit.

"The EU will be directly involved, they are willing to be involved, (and) they have to be involved in the success of the summit," said Dr. Ammari.

"It is not an impression, but a fact..." added Dr. Arbel.

Mr. Grandmaison said the special interest the U.S. was taking in the development of the Jordan Rift Valley stemmed from the very direct role Washington also assumed in Middle East peacekeeping and bringing about the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

"We take special pride in that," he said. "We have a bond because our honour is at stake as well in making (peace) work."

Another key product of the symposium, was the announcement of a "regional equity fund" of \$250 million for five countries in the region, including Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Israel and Morocco as well as the Palestinians.

Dr. Ammari explained that "such fund aims to promote the private sector on a regional basis" and that "definitely some of the funds will be allocated to the private sector in a way to promote their role in the development of the country and the region at large."

On Tuesday, Christopher Finn, executive vice-president of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a U.S. agency, said \$75 million pledged by President Bill Clinton during a speech to

the TDA director, who is directly answerable to the White House.

"The U.S. government's belief is that at this time the best way we can help is to challenge our own private sector to jump in and get involved. We have accepted that responsibility and consider an honour to fulfil it."

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Under 1987 rules, Israeli interrogators were allowed to use "moderate physical pressure" on suspects. Nine months ago Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin relaxed those rules in cases where the Shin Bet feared an attack was imminent.

The army spokesman has remained silent on how 30-year-old Harizat, a computer programmer, sustained the injuries.

## MARVELS OF THE SPRING EXHIBITION

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## Chirac may yet snatch defeat from victory's jaws

By Paul Taylor

Reuter

PARIS — This was the election Jacques Chirac could not lose.

After two failed presidential bids and a lonely period in the political wilderness, the conservative Paris mayor was at last the hot favourite in Sunday's first round of voting.

All opinion polls from early March right up to polling day gave Mr. Chirac, 62, a wide lead over Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin, with fellow Gaullist Prime Minister Edouard Balladur trailing third.

Yet Mr. Chirac nearly threw away his chance with an ill-judged attack on the governor of France's independent Central Bank that revived old questions about his judgement and consistency.

"Chirac ric-rac" — Chirac's skin of his teeth — was the headline of the left-of-centre daily Liberation.

In second place with a mere 20.8 per cent of the vote, the Gaullist leader added less than one percentage point to his first round score in the 1988 election against President Francois Mitterrand, despite a five-month campaign in which he travelled 25,000 km and shook countless hands.

The energetic Mr. Chirac's ability to win the decisive second round against Mr. Jospin in two weeks'

time may depend crucially on his ability to keep his foot out of his mouth.

"The French people do not like my husband," his wife Bernadette commented after the 1988 defeat.

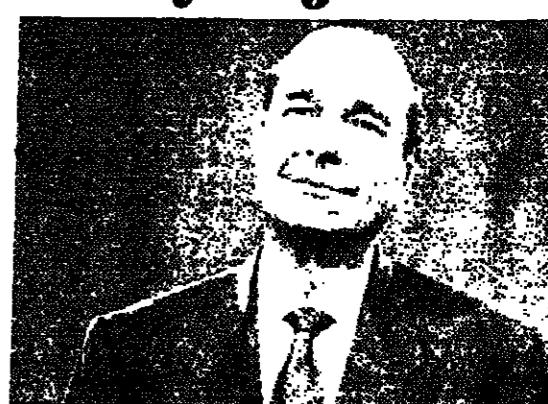
This time, it appeared the French people were reconciled, or perhaps resigned, to the idea that Mr. Chirac's time had come. His catchy slogan "France for all" and his apple-tree logo had won wide popularity.

A calmer, less impulsive, more socially conscious Mr. Chirac had attracted more than a third of young voters, a quarter of the working class as well as his traditional rural, middle class and small business clientele to make him the people's candidate.

But he blew it 10 days before the election by assaulting bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet for advocating wage restraint, then rowing back and waving a letter from Mr. Trichet on television praising his support for the Franc even as the French currency slumped because of his comments.

Opinion surveys showed the dispute, skilfully exploited by Mr. Balladur and his followers, frightened small savers and some businessmen, who switched to the less volatile prime minister.

At the same time, Mr. Chirac's left-of-centre call



Jacques Chirac

for a more energetic assault on unemployment and poverty, and his pro-European message, drove some rightist voters into the arms of extreme-right leader Jean-Marie le Pen.

In 1974, he led a revolt against official Gaullist Jacques Chaban-Delmas in favour of centre-right candidate Valery Giscard d'Estaing who rewarded him with the premiership when he won.

Then in 1976, Mr. Chirac rebelled against the man he had helped to the presidency, resigning after accusing Giscard d'Estaing of referring him with the premiership's defeat.

Among the sound-bites were "politics is the art of making the necessary possible," "too much tax kills taxation," and "the pay packet is not the enemy of employment."

Placed on the fast track to high office by president Charles de Gaulle and his prime minister, Georges Pompidou, in the 1960s,

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## ILO warns social security systems could collapse

GENEVA (R) — Government welfare and social security systems could collapse if older workers went on being pressed to retire early to create jobs for the young unemployed, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said Wednesday.

But the U.N. agency warned that switching to private pension schemes, which also involve high administra-

tive costs and rely on government tax concessions, provided no panacea.

In its World Labour Report 1995, ILO called for a flexible retirement age, arguing that early retirement buyouts in Western countries had failed to reduce unemployment significantly.

Public pension expenditure, already the largest single item in the public budget in

most industrialised countries, will be even more costly as people retire earlier and live longer.

By the year 2025, about 14 per cent of world population will be aged 60 years or over, according to ILO. In western Europe, 26 per cent of the population will fall into the category concerning their abilities," the ILO report said.

However, in Japan and Sweden, older men have not dropped out of the active

labour force before reaching retirement age.

About 75.6 per cent — or three in four — Japanese men that age still work. This is due to low employment, retirees being rehired by companies and a large number of family-owned firms.

Canada and the United States, which have rates of 47.6 per cent and 54.9 per cent of men between 60 and

64 still working, face less of an unemployment problem than western Europe. Costly buyouts and disability pensions are used less often, as well.

ILO said incentives for early retirement should be removed and full pension rights based on the number of years of contribution instead of the worker's age, to allow flexibility.

## Cementing Jordan-Israel peace — who will pay?

AMMAN (R) — Plans to develop the rift valley between Jordan and Israel, seen as a practical and symbolic cementing of their peace treaty, leave unanswered the question of who will pay the multi-billion-dollar bill.

A three-day meeting, which ended Wednesday, designed to prepare proposals for a larger conference in six months, produced conflicting ideas of financing alongside the sweeping plans for canals, dams and desalination plants.

A diplomat, predicting a mixture of "innovative" private funding and public money, said bluntly of the source of funds: "Nobody knows."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a news conference the vast amounts would come solely from private investors.

"I think an early estimate (of the cost) was \$25 billion," Mr. Peres said, citing a figure far above even Jordan's ambitious hopes. "We feel that banks, insurance companies, corporations, will make consortiums to invest."

"The idea is that the private companies will invest and the respective governments will guarantee," he said.

In a world where governments are increasingly tight-fisted, private funding sounds appealing.

The U.S. government, an enthusiast backer of the scheme and the sponsor of the Amman meeting, is unlikely to ask a hostile U.S. Congress for more foreign aid when members want to cut existing programmes.

But it is unclear what enthusiasm exists among private investors for putting money into Jordanian infrastructure like highways and railways, or how much risk foreign governments want to assume by guaranteeing debts owed to their companies.

Certainly some presentations at the meeting raised

doubts.

"It is important to the success of the rift valley programme that public funding sources are dedicated to the programme over the long term," said a consultant's paper on transportation.

It said private investors may wait until "the region becomes more secure" — a reminder that much of the Middle East remains poor, with a history of political instability.

That legacy, coupled with World Bank forecasts that the region could have the world's slowest per capita growth in the next decade, prompted a reminder from U.S. investment bank Salomon Brothers that investors might find more attractive places than the inhospitable valley between Jordan and Israel.

"The economics of infrastructure finance projects are usually uncertain, particularly if the projects are undertaken in a developing region such as the Jordan rift valley," its presentation said.

The scheme, including a canal to bring Red Sea water to the Dead Sea that most diplomats privately doubt is realistic, is to show Jordanians the benefits of ending their 46-year struggle with Israel.

With grumbling about unfulfilled expectations rising, Crown Prince Hassan told the conference that even if plans proceed, nothing will be completed for at least 18 months.

The prince, a chief promoter of the scheme, listed social rather than economic priorities when addressing the businessmen who are looking for financial reasons to undertake projects.

"My interest is basically to provide jobs. My interest is to provide participation opportunities for thousands of people who are looking to the return of the peace process," he said. "We are not talking here solely about business."

## Bundesbank criticises IMF lending policies

FRANKFURT (R) — The German Bundesbank, in a report coinciding with this week's meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, was sharply critical Wednesday of the fund's lending policies.

The Bundesbank's 1994 annual report said the IMF was not adequately monitoring members' economic policies, advising them and providing financial support for temporary payments.

"The strongly expanded financial involvement of the IMF in the form of long-term adjustment programmes distinctly aimed at growth is hard to bring into accord with this understanding of its role," the Bundesbank said.

The central bank report said persistently high unemployment was the main economic challenge in Germany. It also called on European countries to step up efforts to

meet Maastricht treaty criteria for European monetary union and said the failure of some countries to tackle their budget problems was at the root of recent currency turbulence.

Referring to the IMF, the Bundesbank said the fund should stick to monitoring members' economic policies, advising them and providing financial support for temporary payments.

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The central bank report said persistently high unemployment was the main economic challenge in Germany. It also called on European countries to step up efforts to

where things had gone wrong.

"The most recent currency crisis in Mexico is an indication of inadequacies in the economic surveillance of member countries by the IMF," it said.

As the IMF meeting was getting underway in Washington, Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer underscored this position Tuesday, saying Mexican events illustrated the need for a more effective economic early warning system.

Germany had strong reservations about a \$17.8 billion IMF loan to Mexico, part of an international rescue package, and the report repeated Bundesbank objections to special IMF facilities aimed at coping with sudden crises.

Introducing new ways for the IMF to provide quick

loans to counter sudden capital outflows could threaten financial market stability by undermining the discipline of market participants.

Borrowers and lenders would check their international credit business less rigorously if they expected the IMF to give substantial and quick support whenever a debtor country encountered sudden problems, it added.

German objections to the Mexico package and to a bid by IMF management to increase its own funds have drawn heavy criticism from United States, main architect of the Mexico deal.

The report also underscored Bundesbank opposition to a bid by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus to increase the organization's own funding, calling the move unnecessary.

## Dollar stages mild rally despite G-7 doubts

LONDON (R) — The dollar staged a mild recovery Wednesday in cautious reaction to the Group of Seven industrial nation's verbal support for the currency, which has fallen 20 per cent against the yen this year.

But market analysts said the rally could be short-lived and were disappointed by the failure of the Group of Seven (G-7) meeting Tuesday to offer concrete remedies to cure recent turbulence.

By late morning, the dollar had strengthened to 1,3829 marks and 83.33 yen from 1,3707 marks and 82.03 in late European dealings Tuesday.

The dollar's spurt came as buying by U.S. funds and other long-term players helped reinforce a growing view that it may have found a base against the yen and the mark, dealers said.

"The dollar's performance suggests that it is looking for a base," said Stuart Thomson, chief economist at Nikko Europe in London. "It's likely to be short-term but there is clearly more of a two-way market now."

The new-found strength was helped by remarks from German Bundesbank council member Hans-Juergen

Krupp who said there was no reason to rule out speculation about a cut in interest rates.

At a Hamburg news conference, Mr. Krupp, who has regularly called for lower interest rates, also said Germany's current discount rate at four per cent was "not particularly low."

The economic policymakers declared in Washington that the dollar's rapid decline was unjustified and called for an "orderly reversal" of recent trends. The finance ministers and central bank governors agreed to take longer-term steps, including reducing budget deficits and trade imbalances.

Traders remained wary of the potential for central bank intervention to support the dollar.

As currency markets took stock of the Washington meeting, the initial reaction of economists was that its communiqué had offered little to help the dollar and traders would be unimpressed by the long term.

"The market is trying to gauge where the dollar is going from here," said Brian Martin, chief economist of the foreign exchange division at BZW in London.

## Russian debt to be \$130b by end of '95

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's foreign debts, including loans inherited from the former Soviet Union, will be around \$130 billion by the end of 1995, Interfax News Agency Wednesday quoted Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov as saying.

Mr. Panskov, speaking to the agency during the spring meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, said debt rescheduling was essential for Russia but gave no details of the terms Moscow hoped to win from creditors.

"We want payments on our debts to be even and interest rates to fall," Mr. Panskov said. "I think this is realistic."

Russian officials put total external debt currently at around \$120 billion, up from \$113 billion at the start of 1994.

Russia has already won a series of rescheduling deals with the Paris Club of creditor states and is currently seeking a longer-term agreement to give it extra time to pay.

Our task is to make sure that debt rescheduling has a long-term perspective and the Russian government

knows the shape of future debt repayments," Mr. Panskov said. "This is essential for a competent drafting of the budget and economic forecasts."

Mr. Panskov said he hoped interest payments could fall after a Paris Club deal was reached.

"I can only say that if in May we sign a debt rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club, then interest rates on debts will fall by 60 per cent or more."

Mr. Panskov said he planned to hold bilateral talks with German Finance Minister Theo Waigel during the Washington meeting. Germany is Russia's biggest foreign creditor.

Meanwhile, Russia's foreign minister has encouraged U.S. bankers to accelerate partnerships with Russian companies and boost investment in them.

Andrei Kozyrev told a group of bankers in New York that while barriers to Western-style commerce, such as widespread corruption and crime, are a problem in Russia, many opportunities exist for foreign investors.

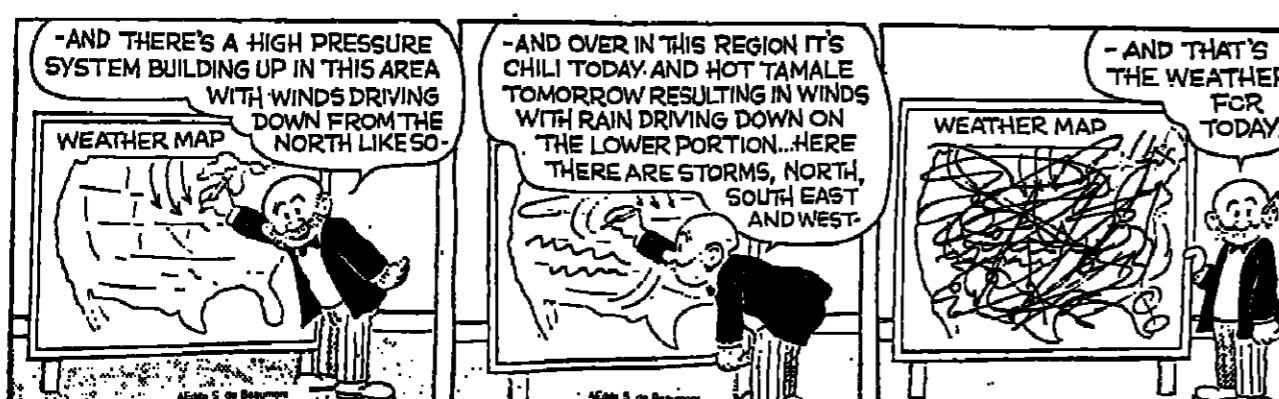
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp

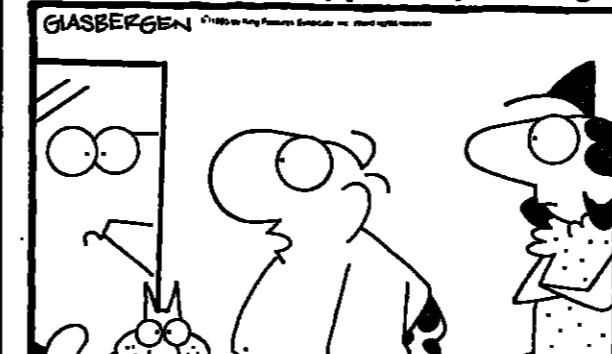


## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF

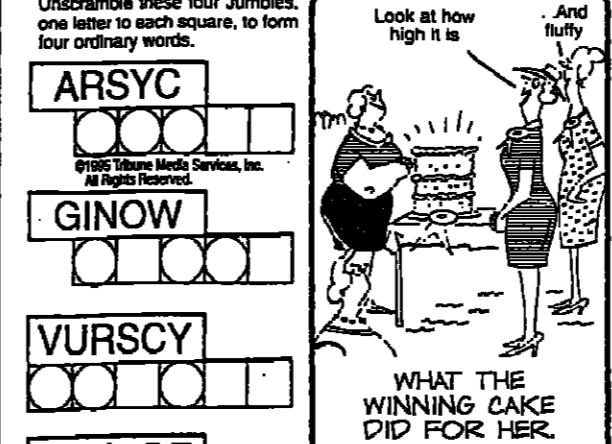
By Glasberg



"They say it's what's inside a person that really matters. If that's the part that matters, why isn't it on the outside?"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Aronson



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: **CAKED** TO THE **ROOLBE**

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: **CAKED** PUPPY DITHER BANISH

## Turkey signs deal for \$500 million loan facility

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and 18 Western and Turkish banks signed an accord Wednesday for a \$500 million loan facility.

The country's first international borrowing deal since March 1994 consists of a \$245 million syndicated loan and a \$255 million floating rate note (FRN) issue, the treasury said.

Turkey, hit by a financial crisis and successive downgrades in its credit rating earlier last year, has been out of international debt markets since then.

But treasury officials are planning to borrow around \$2 billion this year and say Wednesday's deal will pave the way for another borrowing later this year probably at a lower cost.

The signing was completed by an exchange of faxed letters, the treasury added.

The syndicated loan and the note issue carry an interest of six-month LIBOR plus 175 basis points. Turkey also pays a relatively high fee of 345 basis points.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 27, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get out early today and handle your affairs constructively since much can be accomplished. Handle emergencies within your residence tonight.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 18) Whatever your aims may be about gaining a greater abundance today, you are able to progress at such easier times.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 18) You find many ways of gaining personal aims which mean a good deal to you now. Take time to improve your health and appearance.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get together with experts today and decide upon a new course which can bring you greater success.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Contact your most brilliant friends today and together go after the pursuits which most activate you. Be sociable during your spare time.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) Making a good impression on higher-ups with your ability is wise today. Get your credit and public image improved.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Contact those who can further your ambitions today and ideas and get fine results. Intuitive capabilities do not work well tonight.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You can be very ingenious at business affairs today so handle them as they arise. Take time to please your loved one tonight.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Fast-thinking persons are about today who can give you right answers to any enigmas you may have.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You are very good at organization and this is a particularly fine day for such. Handle important business matters.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Go out for the pleasure which is very much on your mind today and dress nicely so you feel more sure of yourself.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get all those duties, both big and small, well-handled at your home today so that everything will function properly.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 28, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have to use much tact in dealing with others today and care in motion of all kind. Make social contacts with close associates tonight.

## Business &amp; Finance

ey signs deal for million loan facility

(R) — Turkey and 18 Western and local treasury said.

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## HOROSCOPE

CAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 27, 1995

Persian Astrologer Carroll Righter Fouse

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20 to May 20: Whatever your aims may be

or abundance today, you are able to progress

21 to June 21: You find many ways of

which mean a good deal today to you now. Take

22 to September 22: Making a good impression

your ability is wise today. Get your credit and

23 to October 22: Contact those who

are not working today and get fine results. Use

23 to November 21: You can be very open

and work well tonight.

24 to December 21: Far-seeing

today who can give you right answers will

25 to January 21: You are very good

in this in a particularly fine day today for such

small matters

26 to March 21: Get all the dates, but

handled at your home so that everything

27 to April 21: Contact your most brilliant

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## Wimbledon prize money hits new record

WIMBLEDON (AP) — With nearly \$10 million in prize money on offer this year, Wimbledon's top official says the players are worth "every penny" — even if the tennis can be boring.

The All England Club announced Tuesday that prize money for this summer's championships will total a record \$6 million, equivalent to \$9.6 million at current exchange rates.

The figure in sterling represents a six per cent increase — double the rate of inflation — over last year's purse of £5.68 million. Because of currency fluctuations, the dollar figure has gone up 13 per cent on last year's total of \$8.52 million.

The men's champion will receive \$365,000 (\$584,000). If Pete Sampras retains his title, he will get \$67,000 more than last year.

The women's champion will take home £328,000 (\$524,000), compared with the £310,000 (\$465,000)

check Conchita Martinez received for winning the 1994 title.

Total prize money for men will be £3.2 million (\$5.1 million) and £2.5 million (\$4 million) for women.

Wimbledon, like the French Open, offers more money to the men than the women. The two other Grand Slam tournaments, the Australian and U.S. Opens, offer equal prize money.

"We look at that every year and we make a conscious decision" to maintain different prizes, All England Club Chairman John Curry said.

Curry rejected suggestions that prize money was spiraling out of control.

"A lot of people have that view, but I don't," he said. "I believe that the top players are worth every penny. Think of how much top businessmen are paid and how much pop stars receive. At Wimbledon the players are the

best in the world and they deserve the best from us."

"The increase is a function of competitive pressures and the attraction of the game," he said. "It's what you can afford to pay. But the most important factor to ensure that Wimbledon's premier position is maintained."

Curry acknowledged that many people find the tennis at Wimbledon to be tedious, with few rallies or subtle shots on the fast grass courts. In last year's final, Sampras beat Goran Ivanisevic 7-6, 7-6, 6-0 in a slam-bam match dominated by big serves.

"Yes, some of the tennis was boring," Curry acknowledged. "The final was not the greatest for the man in the street. But if you are an aficionado of tennis, it was exciting."

This year's tournament will be held from June 26 to July 9.

Meanwhile, Wimbledon's new No. 1 court is beginning to take shape in Aorangi Park, adjacent to Centre Court. The court is scheduled to be ready for use in 1997, while two new outside courts should be finished by 1998.

The area has been turned into a massive construction site, with workers putting up temporary tents for food villages, shops and concession stands. Two huge cranes will still tower over the grounds when fans arrive this summer.

"It may not look as attractive but it will be business as usual," Curry said. "Although there will be some

evidence of development work, the 1995 championships will proceed in the normal way. Every effort is being made to ensure that any inconvenience is kept to the absolute minimum for

players, fans and those who work at the event."

The next stage will be expansion of the Centre Court and construction of a new facilities building, expected to be completed by 2000.

### Wimbledon prize money

#### Men's Singles

Winner: \$584,000  
Runner-up: \$529,000  
Semifinalists: \$146,000  
Quarterfinalists: \$75,920  
Round of 16 losers: \$40,890  
Round of 32 losers: \$23,648  
Round of 64 losers: \$14,304  
First round losers: \$8,760

Winner: \$524,800  
Runner-up: \$526,400  
Semifinalists: \$124,800  
Quarterfinalists: \$64,320  
Round of 16 losers: \$33,856  
Round of 32 losers: \$18,288  
Round of 64 losers: \$11,688  
First round losers: \$6,800

## 14-year-old suspended for steroids

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A 14-year-old South African girl has been suspended from competition by Athletics South Africa (ASA) for the use of banned substances.

The girl, whose name was not released on Sunday when the test results became known, provided the positive urine sample at the National Junior Championships in Germiston between April 7-8 and now faces a four-year ban.

A potentially lethal cocktail of banned substances was found — the anabolic steroid nandrolone and the stimulant fencamfamine.

Nandrolone is the substance found in American sprinter Butch Reynolds' urine sample five years ago which resulted in a two-year ban.

## Barkely seeks title before Suns set

"We have to win it now," three-point sharpshooter Dan Majerle said. "We're sick of being close. We want this thing. This is our chance and everybody knows it."

Barkely pushed off thoughts of retirement due to back pain and has had a strong season, averaging 22 points and helping the Suns open their best-of-five-round series against Portland here on Friday.

The Suns have averaged 116.6 points a game, second best in the league, despite losing Manning in February to a torn knee ligament. Where the Suns have suffered is defense, allowing 104 points a game, second-most in the league.

"We have so much talent we can get by on that alone most nights," Barkley said. "But if we want to win the championship, we have to play well together and play defense. With us, it always comes down to defense."

The injury-hampered Suns have become healthy for the playoffs. A post-season key will be Kevin Johnson, who missed 35 games with an

### TRANSLATOR WANTED

A diplomatic mission in Amman is seeking to employ a female / male translator with the following qualifications:

1. Minimum of 3 years experience in professional & literal translation, English - Arabic and Arabic - English.

2. Secretarial skills (especially typing & other routine office skills).

Please send C.V. to:  
P.O.Box 2835 IQDSAAB  
Amman by 20th of May

On The Occasion of The Norwegian Week

National Music Conservatory, Darat Al Hussein Foundation

The Royal Norwegian Embassy  
present in concert

A DIALOGUE OF NORWEGIAN AND JORDANIAN FOLK MUSIC

REIDUN HORVEL, VOICE  
EINAR MOØLSNES, FIDDLE

&

JORDANIAN SAKHER HATTAR, OUD  
Tuesday, 2 May 1995, 8:00 pm.

Darat Al Hussein, Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation

Ticket Price JD 7

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Proffy



## Aqaba airport expansion plan gets on 'fast track'

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA), a government arm, on Wednesday announced it was offering a \$500,000 grant to conduct a feasibility study on expanding the Aqaba airport in the next two years to cater for a higher number of passengers.

The announcement was made at the conclusion of a three-day symposium on Jordan Rift Valley development attended by senior officials and business executives from the U.S., Israel and Jordan.

"The development of the Aqaba-Eilat airport corridor has emerged as the highest transportation priority to meet the anticipated increase in demand caused by additional tourism," said the final communiqué of the symposium. "Therefore, immediate steps should be taken to carry out the necessary feasibility assessments and prepare the project for investment."

J. Grandmaison, director of TDA, said separately that his organisation was granting the \$500,000 aid for the preliminary study.

"Both Israel and Jordan will benefit from the increased tourism and other economic benefits that the enhancement of the airport and its joint use will bring," said Mr. Grandmaison, the

key organiser of the symposium under a mandate from President Bill Clinton.

"This grant also demonstrates that the TDA is open for business in the Middle East, and we will actively pursue additional opportunities in support of President Bill Clinton's commitment to the peace process."

Expanding the Aqaba airport to higher international standards and modernising and increasing facilities available to passengers have been key themes from the very outset of Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations that started in mid-1994.

But it was the first time that the issue was discussed in detail when participants in the Amman symposium heard international business executives with immense experience in aviation and ground services presented their viewpoints.

While no definite figures have been established, it is estimated that the project would entail up to \$200 million in fresh investments. Given the drain on the public resources of Jordan, private sector investment will have to be sought, particularly in view of the added emphasis that the Amman symposium brought to free market economy and liberalisation.

One of the ideas floated was a "build, own and operate" scheme under which the

entire investment for the project will come from external sources and the local government will receive a sum to be negotiated.

Raytheon Engineers and Constructors, a U.S. multinational, presented a paper to the symposium outlining its experience in working on a similar project in Bangalore, India.

Mr. Grandmaison said there was no predetermined concept for the project.

He said the TDA had identified a "fast-track" approach to the Aqaba project under which a selection process will begin next week for a U.S. contractor to conduct the study and one will be identified in two months.

The study will be presented to the Amman Economic Summit in October.

Joint use of the Aqaba airport, which now caters mainly to internal flights to Amman and a few flights to Egypt in addition to tourist charters, was underlined by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the opening session of the symposium.

Noting that Israel's Eilat airport on the Red Sea coast a few kilometres from Aqaba was not enough to meet the needs of tourists coming to Israel, Mr. Peres said: "Instead of having a near miss over Aqaba let us not miss the opportunity" for cooperation.



NORTHERN BADIA: His Royal Highness northern badia region (see page one) (Petra Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday visits the photo)

## Hizbullah expects Israeli attack

SIDON (Agencies) — Hizbullah guerrillas braced Wednesday for possible retaliation for a suicide car bombing that wounded at least 11 Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon the day before.

The command of Hizbullah said its guerrillas have been put on maximum alert along on 80-kilometre front line abutting an Israeli-occupied border enclave. Guerrillas were poised to rocket northern Israel should Lebanese civilians come under attack.

"All our Mujahideen are braced to rocket the enemy's northern settlements if our civilian population was subjected to revengeful attacks in the south," said a Hizbullah communiqué released in this southern port city.

The group's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, ordered the alert shortly after Tuesday's bombing in which nearly 20 Lebanese civilians and one pro-Israeli militiaman also were wounded.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack, mounted by a lone bomber who rammed a car rigged with 460 kilograms of explosives into an army convoy near the Israeli "civil administration" compound.

The bomber perished in the afternoon explosion in Bint Jbeil, a town less than ten kilometres from the Israeli border.

The blast wrecked the sprawling compound used by Israeli officers to handle the day-to-day affairs of the 200,000 inhabitants of the occupied enclave, which Israel calls a "security zone."

A senior Israeli official said the bombing failed to kill Israeli soldiers because of strict security regulations.

Two Israeli soldiers were moderately wounded and nine lightly in the attack, the army said.

"Safety regulations for suicide attacks were followed by the soldiers which explained why the operation did not kill any one," said Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon.

According to Israeli Radio 10, the regulations include:

— A distance of 50 metres between military vehicles in convoy;

— All oncoming local Lebanese traffic must halt to let convoys pass, and following traffic must not overtake;

— All Lebanese vehicles must carry at least one passenger as well as a driver.

Soldiers were under orders to open fire on drivers who do not obey the instructions above.

"If we follow the rules and the bombings fail, Hizbullah will stop planning suicide attacks," Mr. Lubrani said.

## COLUMN 10

Ex-landowners lose legal battle in claim on U.S. base

TOKYO (AP) — An 18-year-long legal battle launched by the former owners of land made into a U.S. Air Base ended Tuesday as Japan's Supreme Court rejected their claim to the 2,000-hectare (4,940-acre)

tract of land. A total of 12 former landowners sought in the suit the Japanese government's recognition of their ownership of the land and payment of 5 billion yen (\$60 million) in back rent. Japan's wartime Imperial Army built a military airfield on the land in 1934. The U.S. Air Force has used the land as Kadena Air Base under a mutual defence pact ever since Japan's defeat in World War II.

In the suit, filed in 1977, the plaintiffs argued that they were forced to relinquish the land to the Imperial Army without due compensation. In the final ruling, the nation's highest court upheld lower courts' ruling that it had to be a transaction under a legal contract. The court, including the Naha District Court and the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court, based their judgement on similar base-construction cases during the war in the nearby island of Ishigaki and other islands in western Japan.

The group's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, ordered the alert shortly after Tuesday's bombing in which nearly 20 Lebanese civilians and one pro-Israeli militiaman also were wounded.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack, mounted by a lone bomber who rammed a car rigged with 460 kilograms of explosives into an army convoy near the Israeli "civil administration" compound.

The bomber perished in the afternoon explosion in Bint Jbeil, a town less than ten kilometres from the Israeli border.

The blast wrecked the sprawling compound used by Israeli officers to handle the day-to-day affairs of the 200,000 inhabitants of the occupied enclave, which Israel calls a "security zone."

A senior Israeli official said the bombing failed to kill Israeli soldiers because of strict security regulations.

Two Israeli soldiers were moderately wounded and nine lightly in the attack, the army said.

"Safety regulations for suicide attacks were followed by the soldiers which explained why the operation did not kill any one," said Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon.

According to Israeli Radio 10, the regulations include:

— A distance of 50 metres between military vehicles in convoy;

— All oncoming local Lebanese traffic must halt to let convoys pass, and following traffic must not overtake;

— All Lebanese vehicles must carry at least one passenger as well as a driver.

Soldiers were under orders to open fire on drivers who do not obey the instructions above.

"If we follow the rules and the bombings fail, Hizbullah will stop planning suicide attacks," Mr. Lubrani said.

**Family feud over name ends in death**

SHANGHAI (AP) — A peasant was beaten to death following the christening of his son in a village in northern Shandong province where two feuding families live, a newspaper reported.

Palestinian sources indicated Wednesday that the Americans had proposed unblocking \$60 million over coming months, while the PNA wants the full budget deficit figure to be paid out immediately.

One Palestinian official nevertheless said some kind of accord may well be hammered out over the next few days in Paris.

Dr. Shaafti said Wednesday an agreement was needed in order to avoid constant crises in the authority's economy.

"We don't want a new crisis every two months. We are ready to fulfil our commitments. The United States and Israel must do the same," he said.

The U.S. State Department coordinator for Middle East affairs, Dennis Ross, is heading the U.S. delegation in Paris, while Israeli foreign ministry director general Uri Savir will lead the Israeli team, accompanied by his finance ministry counterpart David Brodat.

Earlier in the week Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Danny Chek voiced optimism that the Paris talks could achieve a breakthrough in resolving the obstacles to international aid.

But Dr. Shaafti said international donors must also begin "implementing the projects they have promised in the self-rule areas" of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. For years, the report said.

## Jordan and Tunisia seek to boost economic cooperation

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hamid Qarawi on Wednesday urged the private sectors and businessmen of Jordan and Tunisia to play a leading role in bolstering Tunisian-Jordanian relations and to participate in joint ventures.

Speaking on the second day of a meeting here of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee, Dr. Qarawi said economic cooperation between the two countries was still below the desired level and does not reflect the actual potential.

Economic reform and

democracy create the climate to promote economic activities and open new avenues for cooperation, he said.

The joint committee meeting, he said, offers the two sides a unique opportunity to evaluate their past cooperation and explore new avenues for relations and a forum for discussing topics of common concern.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who heads the Jordanian side to the meeting, said the committee was determined to enhance cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia in political, economic, cultural, information, tourism trade and scientific fields.

The two prime ministers voiced their countries' commitments to back the Middle East peace process.

The two reviewed areas of mutual cooperation and a report by a joint committee that prepared for the meeting.

The two prime ministers are expected to sign a protocol on Thursday covering maritime transport, tourism and agriculture as well as trade and economic cooperation.

## Iraq wants nothing less than total lifting of oil embargo

The spokesman said that the Iraqi leadership decided to launch a "diplomatic and popular" drive to get the sanctions lifted.

Baghdad considers that the restrictions imposed by U.N. Resolution 986, which called for strict monitoring of up to \$1 billion in oil sales per quarter, was an attack on its sovereignty and could hinder the full lifting of sanctions.

The stand was agreed at a meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and Baath Party leadership, chaired by President Saddam Hussein.

"Iraq accepts nothing less than the implementation of the U.N. Security Council of paragraph 22 of Resolution 687," an Iraqi spokesman said.

This paragraph provides for the lifting of the oil embargo once the United Nations are convinced that Iraq's mass destruction potential was dismantled.

Baghdad says this condition has been fulfilled already. But the U.N. Special Commission that has been supervising Iraq's disarmament since the 1991 Gulf war that freed Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation rejects the Iraqi assertion.

The official Iraqi News Agency said late Tuesday that the deal calls for creating a number of joint ventures, the expansion of oil and gas transportation networks and development of crude refineries.

The agency said the accord was signed in Baghdad by Russia's energy and fuel minister, Yuri Shafrazi, and Iraqi Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad.

After the signing ceremony, Mr. Jawad told the

agency that detailed plans for implementing joint projects would be ready "in a few weeks."

However, Russia's Itar-Tass news agency reported from Baghdad that the projects would be implemented after the United Nations lifts the sweeping sanctions it imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

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